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C. A. MENET, Representative.



THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1909.

THE HARBOR LINE QUESTION

The board of Aldermen having voted for the establishment of a new harbor line and having delegated that duty to its Harbor committee, it is "now up to" that committee to fix upon a line which will be acceptable to the city and its harbor interests. It also acceptable to the railroad, well and good; if not, the fight against the line suggested by the board and accepted by the government and which makes a gift of 11 acres of harbor area to the road, should be continued, if necessary, forever. The injustice attempted to be perpetrated by this line is so gross that any measure of opposition covering however great duration of time, is abundantly justifiable.

It is pleasing to know that the Aldermen did not discontinue the present city line, as was reported, and that they will not do so until a new line is adopted. One of the incomprehensible points of the Mayor's position has been his desire to discontinue the present line before the adoption of a new one; his motive could only be of the ultra pro-corporation type.

Perhaps the most ludicrously absurd position ever held by a railroad attorney was that taken by Mr. Boardman at the hearing. If the city would abandon its line and the 11 acres of harbor area and accept the government railroad line, the road would remove the Naugatuck dock and abandon its suit against the city. This dock removal has, we believe, been promised with each of the harbor-area grabs made by the road, but the ex-crescence still stands. It is according to Harbormaster Morris, in a tumble-down condition, and it obstructs the railroad company's vessels more than any other. If the city should accept the railroad's harbor line, withdrawal of the suit against the city would be an empty formality, not a gift of value, for its basis would have disappeared. Thus, it is seen that the railroad attorney's proposed inducements were unadulterated fraud.

That "little joker" which appeared in the first draft of the Mayor's proposed charter amendments but was withdrawn upon exposure as a "political error" and which afterward appeared at Hartford as predicted, has received the approval of the committee on Cities and Boroughs, which is expected from a committee appointed by Speaker Banks who, it is said, owes his position to having "made his peace" with the railroad. Without the enactment of the "little joker," the railroad would have no chance whatever of obtaining damages for harbor area given by the government, but withheld by the city; with its inclusion in the charter, the road would have a quasi basis for a claim of damages, but there is a reasonable doubt whether the courts would grant it.

And so we find a substantial reason for the existence of the "little joker," though its origin is still enshrouded in mystery, though some close observers claim to find some connection between it and the Mayor's very pronounced pro-railroad and anti-city position as shown by words, acts and very peculiar parliamentary decisions.

SHARP BIT OF

POLITICAL TRICKERY

The special committee appointed to report a public utility bill to the General Assembly is very unsatisfactorily constructed. By the presiding officer of the Senate, himself a high official in a public service corporation, two opponents of the creation of a public utilities commission are named; by the Speaker of the House who is believed to be tarred with the pro-corporation stick, four supporters and one opponent are named, together with two Democrats who are said to have "dodged" when the matter was voted upon and who, as is evident from the alleged dodging, are really opponents but dared not so vote, in antagonism to their party's platform and the majority sentiment of their constituents.

This, the committee of nine stands: Known supporters of a public utilities commission, 4; known opponents, 3; unknown, but evidently opponents, 2; or 5 to 4 against the proposed commission. Very dextrously constructed is this special committee. The balance of power between supporters and opponents is placed in the two unknowns who are Democrats but will probably side with the opponents. This will enable the Republican managers to not only defeat the project, or at least emasculate the measure to be reported into partial or complete ineffectiveness, but also to place the responsibility thereupon the Democratic side. It is the sharpest bit of political trickery put in practice of late years.

It is very evident that there is no intention of allowing the creation of any public utilities commission which could be of real value to the people.

First, the General Assembly was quietly packed against it; then, the Judiciary committee was apparently packed, and now the special committee is probably treated similarly. If the public service corporations do not control this General Assembly, all the signs mislead.

Some time ago, the Hartford Courant gave warning to the corporations that if the project should be defeated, a more drastic measure would appear in the next General Assembly, with much improved chances of enactment. This prediction will, we believe, be fulfilled.

Brother Patten has not retired with the millions gained by his corner in May wheat; on the contrary, he is said to be operating for a corner in July wheat. Speculation in a prime necessity of life should be prohibited. Prohibition of dealings in "futures" would probably effect that object.

Conservation of natural resources has developed a new phase in Mexico. An enterprising individual proposes by means of two wells, to secure steam power from a volcano. Into one well he will pour a stream of water which will be turned into steam for emission from the other. There are difficulties however, to be overcome in this first attempt to harness volcanoes into useful service.

The Finance committee has decided in favor of a State tax of one-half mill upon the dollar. It is a small tax, but it will operate unequally. Towns which do not assess property at full value, will not pay their right share of the tax; those in which full-value assessments prevail, will pay more than their proper share. Of course, it is urged that the State board of Equalization will raise the grand lists of the under-value towns to an alleged level with the others, but it is exceedingly improbable that the board will decree any full equalization. Should this State tax be continued, towns will probably reduce their property valuations in order to escape as much of it as possible—that is, the tax postmaster suggested that the town of Stratford, which requires full-value assessments.

CASTORIA.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

of *Castoria*

STRATFORD

The Minstrels—Excellent Performance—Local Hits—Movements of Local Residents—At the Orphan Asylum—A Strange Egg—Personals.

A very large audience which filled every seat in the hall thoroughly enjoyed the minstrel show given in entertainment last evening at the Red Men's hall under the auspices of Oke-nauk Tribe, No. 49. The cast was as follows:

Director, Harry N. Brown.
Pianist, Geo. N. Finkelstone.
Interlocutor, Geo. A. Fairchild.
End Men, Wm. A. Strickland, Robert Syrett, Tambors: Wm. B. Appleby, Chas. E. Harrison.
Soloists, Quartette and Chorus—C. Fred Atwood, Emmet Beardsley, Jr., F. C. Buddington, Sidney A. Colbourne, Wilson Donaldson, H. E. Griffin, F. W. Nettleton, R. D. Sammis, James Vans, Ernest Wilcox, William Edwin, Allen Beardsley, Edward Benedict, Walter S. Curtis, Herbert Doolittle, Arthur Meloy, H. Arthur Powell, George W. Spang, Ernest Vincent, Joseph Yates, Stage Manager, H. B. Barnum.

Minstrel Committee—W. B. Appleby, D. W. Sammis, G. V. Spaul, W. Strickland, H. B. Barnum, F. W. Nettleton, R. King, S. Filmer.
After a piano overture by George N. Finkelstone, the entire company, including the Minstrels were good representative Africans and wore striking costumes of white, with red sashes and red neckties, while the end men and the tambors and tambores were dressed in elaborate uniforms of cardinal satin, old gold satin, with a profuse display of diamonds and pearls. The songs were gentle hits at local institutions and men, one being the story of a man who won a turkey at Reed's and when he got it home found it was too large to be roasted in his oven, so he took it to the Assum bakery and the oven there was too small. Finally the postmaster suggested that the fowl be taken to the Stove Club, since that institution roasts everything. Joseph Yates sang in a very sweet manner a song called "Glow Worm," and after more jokes a quartette sang "When the Birds of Georgia Sing of Tennessee." Can a man be in two places at once, asked the end man, Fairchild thought not. Well, was the reply, George A. Porter was in California last winter and at the same time was home sick. Another question was, What could not be had last year, what cannot be had this year and what is not to be had next year? Fairchild gave it up. The end man replied, A Stratford selectman who does his duty. All of these local hits pleased the audience and they were songs of laughter. Mr. Bristol as a baseball fan, Mr. Rhodes as one who goes clamming, Mr. Tuttle and his alleged skins, Mr. Beach and his suit, each received favorable mention. Other solos given, all of which were well sung and elicited applause and approval were "Anchored," "Old Fashioned Roses," very effectively rendered by W. A. Strickland; "I Used to be Afraid to go Home in the Dark, Now I'm Afraid to Home at All," Sweetheart Won't You Come With Me to Dreamland," and "My Indian Squaw."

This last piece was rendered by Harry E. Brown, costumed as a cowboy, with scalping knife and pistol. As he sang the young squaw flew to his arms, and a lot of Indians in the audience were painted across the stage. The setting of the whole performance was very effective and creditable, and the play of colored lights added much to the picturesqueness of the scenes. The second part of the performance was made up of a comet imitation, dancing, table-tapping and a female impersonation by Alfred B. Stacey. Altogether the show was well worth seeing and hearing, and reflects much credit upon all concerned. It will be repeated this evening and is sure to draw another full house.

The time is near at hand once more for the election and installation of officers for the numerous local clubs. The chairs are hungry for fresh occupants.

William Middlebrook is visiting her mother in Darien. It is thought that some time will pass by the election and installation of machine hovers over town. It excites considerable curiosity in certain local circles. People do say it is a wonder.

A man was seen at the center not long ago who claimed to have walked from New Haven. He was looked upon as a freak. He had dust on his shoes. Frank E. Clark and wife have been visiting at the lighthouse. The pair in Miss Edith Turner's room came up to the scratch on the "honor roll."

Men who wear straw hats around town these days are likely to have them blown off. It is even dangerous to wear a peach basket hat, trimmed with plums and sunflowers.

Walter T. Oviatt has been in town, at the Jewell residence, from Providence, R. I. She once resided in Stratford.

The ladies who so successfully conducted the last rummage sale were Mrs. John Miller, Mrs. William H. Cogswell, Miss Alice Curtis, Mrs. Charles H. Silliman, Mrs. Rowell, Mrs. Margaret DeLacour, Mrs. F. S. Beardsley, Miss Edna Sammis, Mrs. Robert Sammis, Mrs. Viner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. C. F. Johnson, Mrs. Frank E. Blake-man, and Mrs. Maynard Smith. A new style hat called the "saloré" was in evidence. It was worn last summer.

About May 1 William Hughes will have a new depot on the Fox building, on the same side of the street as the other news depot. An increase of business demanded larger quarters.

The young lady who is to be married on the 2d of June to George Coe of this place is Miss Harriet C. Williams of Derby. The ceremony will occur in the Second Congregational church of that city.

The family of Henry Brelsford has a baby which arrived last Sunday morning. Frank Sammis spent Wednesday evening at the Protestant Orphan Asylum at Black Rock, where the little tots gave an entertainment of dancing, gymnastic exercises, etc. Miss Slocum has been instructing them.

A little local dog recently had an encounter with an automobile, and as usual came off victorious. Not a hair of the dog was harmed, but the auto was badly damaged.

The Haymakers are going to have another big day. Already many lawn mowers are being cut down.

It is no uncommon thing to have a man in the lookout for being drunk. And the mills which supply the liquor keep right on at the same old stand. Mrs. Martha Beard is reported to be on the sick list.

There is soon to be a land boom near Avon Park.

A wrinkled egg has been on exhibition at the center. Either the shell was too large and had to be pucked or the contents of the egg were too small. It is reported to have been laid on the shore near the lighthouse. It may have been the egg of some strange fish, or sea bird. Those who saw it think it was a rock's egg.

A number of good pupils at the High school have got on the term list, and yet some folks think a High school is too expensive.

Business of importance was talked over last Wednesday evening at the Methodist church.

Rev. C. S. Bullock may be home from Buffalo the latter part of this week. If he is he will preach next Sunday at the Neighborhood church.

The fine new house which is proposed for Paradise Green will be built, so we hear, by Mr. Sheehan of New York.

Newton Reed & Son are having a new floor laid to their plaza.

Not all the people who come down from Nichols to see Prof. Baxter's Wonderful Invention were young folks. Some of them were old enough to be transformed.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bliton have made a brief visit in town. Many local people would be glad to have a visit from Fred Bliton. Alas, he is in the wilds of the far northwest.

Mrs. Wm. Steadman is visiting relatives in this vicinity.

The Colonians continue to hold annual meetings, much to the delight of those who attend.

Raising Fund for

Cleveland Memorial

Chicago, May 20.—The committee of business men to which was intrusted the raising of a fund of \$100,000 to erect a memorial statue to George W. Cleveland is experiencing no difficulty in obtaining subscriptions.

It is said that about half of the sum already has been subscribed, and the finance committee has taken almost no formal action.

Western Union

Must Pay Tax

Topeka, Kan., May 20.—Judge Pollock in the Federal court here upholds the law creating the State Tax Board and affirming a tax of \$3,554,000 assessed by the board against the Western Union Telegraph Company.

The company brought suit, asserting that the assessment was illegal, and attacking the constitutionality of the board's act.

BELL CO. WINS IN

TELEPHONE FIGHT

(Special from United Press.) Cleveland, May 19.—The Bell Company, called by its opponents, the telephone trust, has won an important point in its fight against the independent now being waged in many parts of the country. It was announced that Judge Taylor of the United States Circuit court had refused to issue a temporary injunction sought by the United States Telephone Company against the Central United Telephone and The American Telephone & Telegraph Company to restrain the defendants from their alleged course of causing various local companies to violate 99 year contracts with the United States Company for long distance connections.

The case was based on the charge that the Bell concern was operating a trust in restraint of trade.

N. Y. Wholesale Prices.

BUTTER—Creamery, specials, 25c @ 26½c; extras, 25½c; State dairy tubs, finest, 25½c; good to choice, 24c @ 25c. Eggs—Sunny-side up, selected, white, fancy, 25½c @ 26c; good to choice, 24c @ 25c; brown and mixed, fancy, 24c.

FRUIT—Apples, Northern Spy, per bbl, \$4.50 @ \$5.50; Baldwin, \$5 @ \$5.75; Russet, choice, \$4 @ \$5; Strawberries, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, per quart, 10c @ 15c.

HAY AND STRAW—Hay, Timothy, prime, large bales, per 100 lb, 92½c; No. 2 to No. 4, 70c @ 90c; shipping, 65c @ 87½c; packing, 45c; clover and clover mixed, 60c @ 82½c; Straw, long rye, \$1.40 @ \$1.45; short and tangled rye, \$1; oat, 65c.

POULTRY.—ALIVE—Chickens, broilers, per lb, 25c @ 30c; Fowls, 17c @ 17½c; Ducks, 12c; Geese, 8c; Guinea fowls, per pair, 50c; Pigeons, per pair, 25c @ 30c.

POULTRY.—DRESSED—Broilers, fancy squab, per pair, 60c @ 75c; 3 lb. pair, per lb, 35c @ 40c; Ducks, 12c @ 15c; Squabs, prime, large white, per dozen, \$2 @ \$3.75; poor, dark, \$1.25.

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes, Bermuda, new, per bbl, \$2.50 @ \$3.25; Florida, new, white, \$2 @ \$1.50; new, red, \$2 @ \$4.25; Maine, in bulk, per 100 lb, \$2.75 @ \$3; Asparagus, per dozen bunches, 50c @ \$1; Horseradish, per 100 lb, \$2 @ \$4; Lettuce, nearby, cold frame, per bbl, \$1.50 @ \$2.50; Radishes, nearby, per 100 bunches, \$1 @ \$2; Turnips, nearby, per 100 bunches, \$1 @ \$2; Scallions, nearby, per 100 bunches, 25c @ 75c.

SEEDS—Clover, \$5.85; timothy, \$1.80.

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Notice to Contractors

The Board of Education of the City of Bridgeport hereby invites bids for furnishing the necessary material and labor, and building the whole or any part of a nine room brick addition to the Summerfield School House, located on Grant Street and Central Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn. Said work and material to be in accordance with Plans and Specifications on file in the office of Joseph W. Northrop, Architect, Room 407, Court Exchange Building.

Bids must be handed to the Architect sealed, at or before five o'clock P. M. on Friday, the 28th day of May, 1909.

Each bid, as an evidence of good faith, must be accompanied by a certified check for an amount equal to five (5) per cent. of the amount bid. Checks to be drawn in favor of the Board of Education.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

BOARD OF EDUCATION,
Bridgeport, Conn.
By JOSEPH W. NORTHROP,
Architect. R 19 s

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